

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 remain in this application as amended herein, and claims 12-19 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-19 are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors.

In the Office Action, the Examiner pointed out the proper language and format requirements for the Abstract of the Disclosure. The originally-filed Abstract has been cancelled and a new Abstract submitted in place thereof to correct any informality.

Applicants submit that neither the amendments to the specification nor the amendments to the Abstract introduce new matter.

The Examiner objected to claim 1 because of informalities and also rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to correct these informalities.

Turning now to the art rejections, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Croy (U.S. Patent No. 6,476,825) in view of Yamagawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,992). It is submitted, however, that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the references.

The Examiner contends that Croy discloses the selecting and transmitting steps set out in claim 1. The Croy patent describes a base station that receives external information from a cable television provider or other providers. The base station also includes an interface that is used to communicate with a remote device. The remote device is assigned a unique identification number that is stored in a non-volatile memory in the base station or in the remote device. The remote

device includes a selection device for receiving user input and command selections that are transmitted to the base station. As an example, the remote device may be used to select a program for recording by a video cassette recorder that is connected to the base station. (See FIGS. 1 and 23-24; col. 3, lns. 37-42; col. 4, lns. 28-47 and 59-67; col. 5, lns. 22-43; col. 9, lns. 19-26; and col. 17, lns. 32-47). The VCR and the other devices that are connected to the base station, however, do not have unique identification numbers, and therefore the remote device does not transmit an identification number of the VCR to the base station when the VCR is selected. Also, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Croy does not disclose or suggest a system with multiple control devices and does not disclose or suggest that the base station includes a control correspondence table.

The Examiner contends that the Yamagawa patent remedies these deficiencies and teaches the storing, repeating, transmitting, and controlling steps recited in claim 1. Yamagawa describes a network control system having a single controller. The controller communicates with a television set that is also connected to a DVD player, a digital VCR, and other devices. Each device includes a memory that stores a function list that contains a unique identifier for that device. When a device is connected to the network, the controller reads the function list from the device and stores the list in its function database. Then, when a user operates the controller to select a particular function of a given device, the controller fetches the corresponding commands from the function list associated with the given device and then transmits the commands to that device. Croy also describes that a given device may be comprised of sub-devices that each have a unique identifier that is contained in the function list for the given device. (See FIGS. 1-4, 10, 13, and 16; col. 3, lns. 31-48; col. 17,

lns. 26-66; col. 20, lns. 47-51; col. 21, lns. 31-44; col. 24, lns. 6-11 and 30-40; col. 25, lns. 56-65; col. 27, lns. 12-50; and col. 30, lns. 35-57). Though the patent describes that each device stores a function list that contains its device identifier and that contains the unique identifiers of its sub-devices, the patent does not disclose or suggest that the identifier corresponding to a sub-device is stored in the television set with *identification information corresponding to the control device*, and the patent does not disclose or suggest that this information is stored in a control correspondence table in the television set such that the identification information corresponding to a selected sub-device *is associated with the identification information corresponding to a control device*.

Therefore, neither Croy nor Yamagawa suggests:

storing the identification information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of portions and the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices in a control correspondence table of the information processing apparatus such that the identification information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of portions is associated with the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices

as called for in claim 1

Further, both Croy and Yamagawa describe systems with only *one controller*. Neither reference discloses or suggests a further controller.

Neither Croy nor Yamagawa suggests:

repeating said selecting step, said transmitting step and said storing step to associate the identification information corresponding to a further one of the plurality of control devices with the identification information corresponding to a further one of the plurality of portions

as defined in claim 1.

Moreover, because neither Croy nor Yamagawa describes a control correspondence table in which a sub-device *is associated with a control device*, neither reference suggests referring to such a table.

Neither Croy nor Yamagawa therefore suggests:

referring to the control correspondence table to obtain the identification information corresponding to the portion of the information processing apparatus that is associated with the identification information corresponding to the transmitting control device as set out in claim 1.

It follows that neither Croy nor Yamagawa, whether taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the method defined in claim 1, and claim 1 is patentably distinct and unobvious over the references.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, and each further defines and limits the invention set out in the independent claim. It follows that each of claims 2-9 likewise defines a combination that is patentably distinguishable over the cited references at least for the same reasons.

Independent claim 10 relates to an information processing apparatus connected to a plurality of control devices over a network. The claim includes a storage unit, a receiver, and a controller having limitations similar to those defined in claim 1. Therefore, claim 10 is patentably distinguishable over Croy and Yamagawa for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 11 defines an information control system that includes an information device having limitations similar to those defined in claim 10. Claim 11 is therefore patentably distinguishable over Croy and Yamagawa at least for the same reasons.

Moreover, claim 11 calls for "a plurality of control devices". Claim 11 is therefore further distinguishable over

the cited art for at least the reasons set out above regarding claim 1.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

New claim 12 depends from claim 1 and is patentably distinguishable over the references for at least the same reasons. Moreover, neither Croy nor Yamagawa discloses or suggests transmitting a control correspondence table from the information processing apparatus to *at least another information processing apparatus*, as defined in claim 12. Support for claim 12 is found, e.g., in paragraph [0166] of the specification.

New claims 13-18 depend from claim 10 and are patentably distinguishable over the references for at least the same reasons. Claims 13-17 include limitations similar to those set out in claims 2-5 and 8 and are similarly supported. Claim 18 includes limitations similar to those set out in claim 12 and is further distinguishable over the references for at least the same reasons and is also similarly supported.

New claim 19 depends from claim 11 and is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons. Additionally, claim 19 includes limitations similar to those set out in claim 12, and therefore claim 19 is further distinguishable for at least the same reasons and is also similarly supported.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

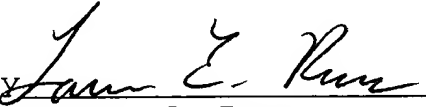
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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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